

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-05 IO-04 L-02 NSAE-00

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SS-15 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 /068 W

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SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0341

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS OCT 22, 1974

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY REPORT ON INFORMAL SESSION WITH
EASTERN REPS ON OCTOBER 22, 1974. FULL TEXT
OF REPORT SENT BY AIRGRAM:

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE OCTOBER 22 INFORMAL SESSION OF
THE VIENNA MBFR TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY
THE BELGIAN REP, UK REP AND US REP, AND THE EAST BY
SOVIET REPS KHLSTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, GDR REP OESER AND
CZECHOSLOVAK REP KLEIN. DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON THE FIRST
STEP REDUCTION PROPOSAL ADVANCED BY EAST ON OCTOBER 15. NEW
ELEMENTS DID NOT EMERGE.

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2. ALLIED REPS POINTED OUT THAT THE EAST'S FIRST STEP REDUCTION PROPOSAL WAS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL IN SUBSTANCE WITH EARLIER EASTERN PROPOSALS. IT ENVISAGED SYMBOLIC REDUCTIONS OF ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS FROM THE OUTSET. IT FAILED COMPLETELY TO DEAL WITH THE CRUCIAL PROBLEM OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE EXISTING DISPARITY IN GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND TANKS, WOULD WORSEN THE EXISTING DISPARITIES AND CODIFY THEM IN AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT, AND DID NOT TAKE ADEQUATE ACCOUNT OF THE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE US AND USSR ON THE ONE HAND AND REMAINING DIRECT PARTICIPANTS ON THE OTHER. ALLIED REPS HAD OBJECTED TO THESE PROPOSALS WHEN THEY WERE EARLIER INTRODUCED. SINCE THE EASTERN PROPOSAL DID NOT TAKE ACCOUNT OF THESE WESTERN OBJECTIONS, IT COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO MOVING THE NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD.

3. IN RESPONSE, EASTERN REPS STATED THE WESTERN REACTION TO THEIR INITIAL REDUCTION PROPOSAL WAS HIGHLY NEGATIVE AND UNPRODUCTIVE. THEY CLAIMED THAT THE EASTERN FIRST STEP PROPOSAL WAS A NEW METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH WHICH COULD ENABLE PRACTICAL FORWARD MOVEMENT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. EASTERN REPS ASSERTED THAT THE CONTENT OF THEIR INITIAL REDUCTION PROPOSAL TOOK WESTERN VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE AND WAS A DEPARTURE FROM THE ORIGINAL EASTERN POSITION IN THAT IT ENVISAGED US-SOVIET REDUCTIONS FIRST AND THE US TAKING A LARGER PORTION OF REDUCTIONS AND THE FRG LESS THAN WOULD BE JUSTIFIED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE SHARES OF NATO FORCES. WHILE THE PRESENT EASTERN PROPOSAL WAS A DEPARTURE FROM ORIGINAL PACT POSITION, WESTERN PROPOSALS REGARDING PHASING AND LINKAGE REMAINED WHOLLY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ORIGINAL AND STILL UNACCEPTABLE WESTERN POSITION. AS HE HAD WHEN INTRODUCING THE FIRST STEP PROPOSAL AT THE END OF MAY, KHLESTOV INDICATED IN GENERAL TERMS THAT, IF THE WEST HAD ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS AS TO THE CONTENT OF A LIMITED FIRST STEP AGREEMENT, THEY SHOULD BE ADVANCED FOR DISCUSSION. KHLESTOV SAID HIS MARCH SUGGESTION THAT THERE COULD BE GLOBAL CEILINGS FOR EACH SIDE HAD BEEN ONLY AN INFORMAL IDEA ON HIS PART, BUT HE DID NOT OTHERWISE REPUDIATE THAT PROPOSAL.

4. SMIRNOVSKY AND KHLESTOV INSISTED THAT PACT PROPOSAL WAS
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A SERIOUS PROPOSAL AND MUST RECEIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY ALLIED REPS. AT THE END OF CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF FIRST STEP PROPOSAL, US REP SUGGESTED THAT GROUP TURN TO DISCUSSION OF WESTERN PROPOSALS ON GROUND FORCE DEFINITION MADE AT LAST INFORMAL SESSION. EASTERN REPS ASSERTED THIS WAS EFFORT TO CLOSE OFF DISCUSSION ON FIRST STEP PROPOSAL AND THE GROUND FORCE DEFINITION TOPIC WAS NOT DISCUSSED. HOWEVER, KHLESTOV NODDED APPARENT AGREEMENT WHEN UK REP

SAID ALLIES WOULD EXPECT DISCUSSION OF THIS TOPIC IN THE
NEXT INFORMAL SESSION, WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 28.
END SUMMARY.RESOR

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